

12 December 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue Northwest, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

A 2012-101

RECEIVED

2011 DEC 22 A 10:01

Re: Closure of the Cardwell, Montana Post Office

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY


Noticed an article in the Montana Standard today, 12 December 2011, that stated they had to pay for their health insurance in advance. I don't know of any other company or agency that has to pay in advance for the health coverage. The lady who is running the Post Office in Cardwell does not receive health insurance coverage, nor does she get fringe benefits or Holiday pay. If such is the case at many other small Post Offices – the ones you are trying to get rid off – perhaps the amount you state you are going to save is inflated.

It is also noted that the Postmaster General makes a salary in excess of \$800,000 per year. No one needs that much to live on per year and it is outrageous that he makes that much. Why that is much more than even the President makes. It reeks of Enron! What's next – he gives himself and a few others a golden parachute and then bails out leaving the Postal Service and the rest with nothing?!

It appears the Post Office didn't read or understand the devastating blow the closure would do to the business community or to the people who utilize the Post Office. It is not convenient for us to use the out of the way Whitehall Post Office, which is located almost 10 miles away and not the seven [7] the Post Office stated in their documents. They evidently did not conduct a thorough and accurate research. This was also evidenced when they didn't know we had two schools, several businesses, and a church in this community. They conducted a survey of usage of the post office in February – the slowest retail month of the year for any business. I think they did that, and so do many others, in order to justify only what they wanted to show and to close down the post offices in a rural state that counts on these post offices for service. We have many who depend on them for medications and for paying bills. It is also ridiculous to send our mail out of state so that it takes much longer to get mail where it is going, like right in town or to Whitehall.

They also did not read and understand the many letters of protest from the folks here who use the post office and the services there. We, as a community, do not want the ugly cluster boxes. They stated the cut in service would not affect people on a rural delivery route. However it already has and they weren't even notified until it was a done deal. Now they have to drive 10 miles one way to get their mail at a cluster box. Their responses to our original letters concerning closure were answered in a trite and say nothing way. They really didn't address the issues. It was as if they'd already made up their minds prior to notifying us and the notification was an afterthought.

They can't even get addresses correct. For example my address is 4 First Street, Jefferson Island, Montana. Jefferson Island is located in Madison County. Cardwell is in Jefferson County. I use the Cardwell zip code because my town doesn't have a post office. However the Post Office, despite repeated requests from me, cannot even spell. They've abbreviated my address to 4 1st Street. That is not my address and I don't want it abbreviated. The town's street names are First and Second Streets, in addition to other streets we have in Jefferson Island. Cardwell does not have a First or Second Street. Cardwell has McKeown Lane and Highway 359 only. Why is it so difficult for them to do it correctly? Because they don't want to, just like they don't want to keep our post offices open. We are a rural community and count on the post office being here. Our small businesses count on it and use it daily – sometimes several times a day. Why don't you cut some of the post offices in bigger cities back East and save even more than you would by cutting our small rural post offices. Please don't close our Post Office. Save American jobs! Keep it open.


Misty Hammerbacker
4 First Street
Jefferson Island, Montana 59721

Received

DEC 20 2011

Office of PAGR